

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. COD WAR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LONDON, PRIME MINISTER WILSON LOOKED AND SOUNDED "GRAVE AND PESSIMISTIC" AS HE TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS JANUARY 28 THAT ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER HALL-GRIMSSON HAD RETURNED TO REYKJAVIK FOR FURTHER CABINET DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE FORMULAS FOR RESOLVING THE FISHERIES DISPUTE. WILSON ALSO STATED THAT:

--HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SHOW GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN
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ACCEPTING "SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS" IN THE BRITISH

CATCH OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS; BUT,

--HE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO SEND THE FRIGATES BACK
INTO THE DISPUTED WATERS IF ICELANDIC SHIPS CONTINUE
TO HARASS BRITISH TRAWLERS.

WHILE CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN MAULDING VOICED SUPPORT FOR
THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACTIONS, SCOTTISH NATIONALIST AND
LABOR BACKBENCHERS DEMANDED THAT WILSON INSURE BRITISH

- -

BOATS ARE PROTECTED AND ALLOWED TO CONTINUE FISHING.
(UNCLASSIFIED) LONDON 1411, 1/28

2. ITALY: MORO'S CHANCES APPEAR SLIM

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ROME, LITTLE HOPE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL
FORMATION OF A ONE-PARTY (MONOCOLORE) CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
(DC) GOVERNMENT EMERGED FROM THE PARTY DIRECTORATE
MEETING OF JANUARY 28. INSTEAD:

--OPPOSITION TO MONOCOLORE WITHOUT AN AGREED PARLIA-
MENTARY MAJORITY HAS GROWN RAPIDLY WITHIN THE DC
PARTY LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS.

--A DOCUMENT WAS APPROVED AIMED AT PASSING RESPONSI-
BILITY TO THE SOCIALISTS FOR FAILURE TO SOLVE THE
PRESENT CRISIS.

--DC SOURCES PREDICTED MORO WILL FAIL IN EFFORTS TO
NEGOTIATE A COMPROMISE ECONOMIC PROGRAM WITH THE
THREE OTHER PARTIES OF THE PREVIOUS MAJORITY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY MORO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, LEAVING LEONE AND THE DC TO
DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK ANOTHER DC LEADER TO MAKE A SIMILAR
ATTEMPT OR SEND THE MORO GOVERNMENT TO ALMOST CERTAIN
DEATH IN PARLIAMENT, FOLLOWED BY EARLY ELECTIONS.(CONFI-
DENTIAL) ROME 1471, 1/28.

3. PORTUGAL: ANTUNES SINGS A WESTERN SONG

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EMBASSY LISBON NOTES THAT ANTUNES' RECENT COMMENTS IN
BRUSSELS ON NATO AND THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS REFLECT
THE CHANGE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CLIMATE SINCE
NOVEMBER 25, INsofar AS THE PORTUGUESE CAN NOW SAY IN
PUBLIC WHAT THEY PREVIOUSLY COULD ONLY SAY PRIVATELY.
AMONG HIS REMARKS:

--THERE IS NO QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE LOYALTY TO NATO DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE GOP, SINCE THEY OCCUPY PURELY "TECHNICAL" MINISTRIES WITHOUT ACCESS TO POLITICAL OR MILITARY SECRETS.

--PORTUGAL HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING OR WEAKENING NATO.

--IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO OVERESTIMATE EAST EUROPEAN INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL.

--THERE IS NO DANGER OF A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL, AS THEY HAVE MADE TOO MANY MISTAKES THERE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 607, 1/28.

4. SAHARA: FIGHTING CONTINUES

MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN TROOPS ENGAGED IN FIGHTING IN THE WESTERN SAHARA FOR THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE DAY JANUARY 28. EMBASSY RABAT REPORTS THAT MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, MEETING JOINTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNSC, WARNED THAT:

--ALGERIAN INTERVENTION COULD HAVE "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES", BUT MOROCCO WAS REMAINING CALM IN SPITE OF ALL PROVOCATIONS.

--MOROCCO DOES NOT INTEND TO CALL FOR A SC ;EETING AT PRESENT. (SECRET) ALGIERS 193, 198; RABAT 441, 1/28. KISSINGER

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